

National Conference On Business And Human Rights 2021: Towards A National Action Plan



National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights: Environment

by

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*UNICEF-UKM Climate Change And Children Project:
"Analysis Of Impacts Of Climate Change And
Environmental Degradation on Children In Malaysia
And Assessment Of Child-sensitivity Of Current
Adaptation And Mitigation Policies"*



الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية ماليزيا
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
بُونَيَّرُفِيَّتِي اِسْلَامُ اَبْتَاو اَبْخِيَا مِلْمِيَّتِيَا
Garden of Knowledge and Virtue

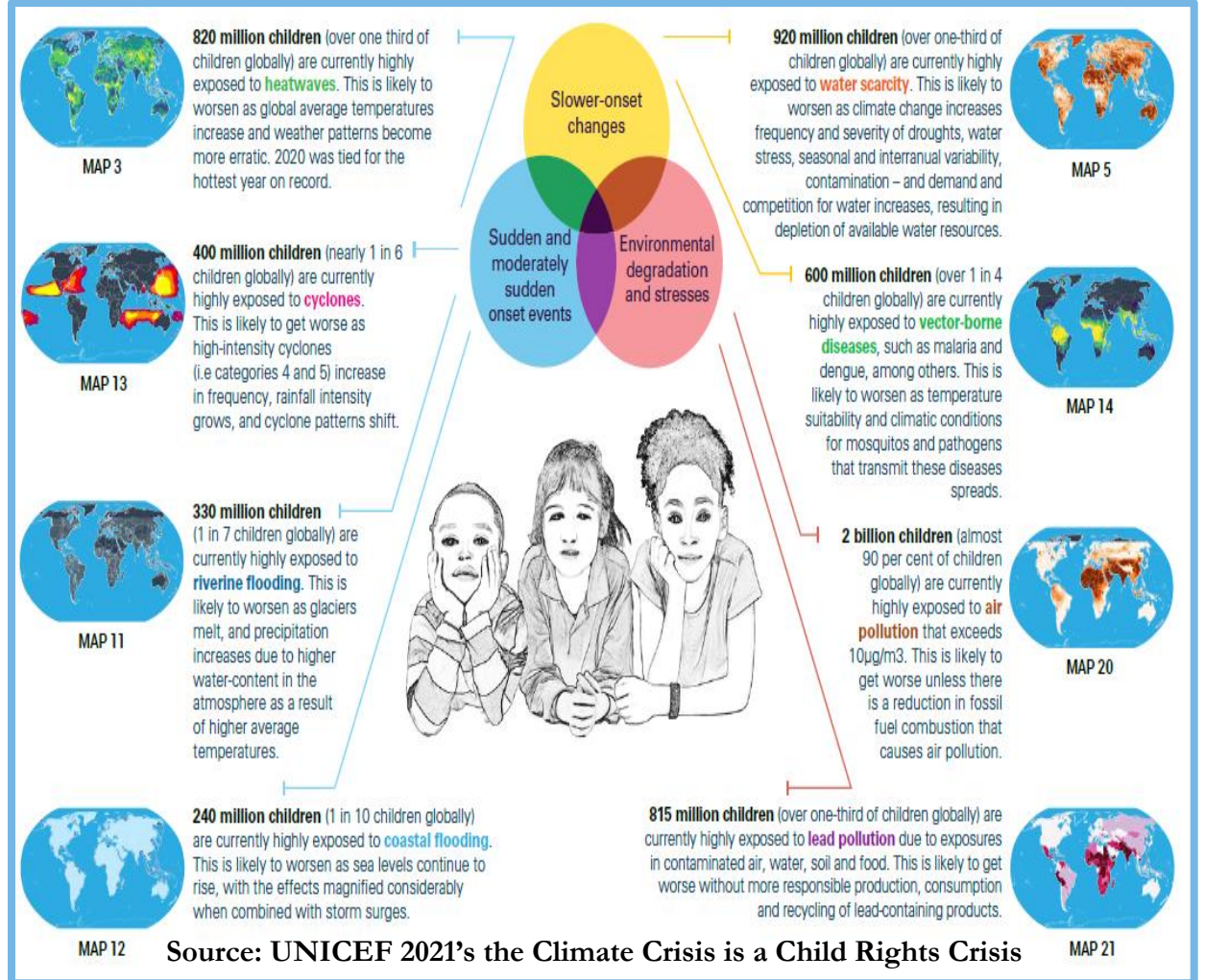
Each year 1.7 million deaths of children under 5 are linked to the environment.

Environmental exposures start in the womb, and can have effects throughout life.



World Health Organization

Children, including adolescents, are exposed to a variety of hazards from the environments in which they live, learn and play.



Source: UNICEF 2021's the Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental risks include air pollution, chemicals, poor water, sanitation and hygiene.

CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY:



Air pollution



Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene



Built environment



Second-hand smoke



Climate change



Hazardous wastes



UV radiation



Hazardous chemicals

CHILDREN ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY EMERGING THREATS SUCH AS:



Persistent organic pollutants / endocrine-disrupting chemicals



e-Waste

Minimising these risks are key to protecting children and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



- Business sector is directly or indirectly involved in the production, use, release and disposal of hazardous substances, pollutants or other types of environmental impact.
- Business activity as the source of environmental damage that harms children through air pollution, poor quality drinking water, and other routes of exposure.
- Abuses of children's rights are linked to present business operations but also the legacy of environmental degradation from past activities and potential future harm.
- Examples: Pollution of Sungai Kim-Kim and haze pollution, haze pollution.



- CRC is a human rights instrument with a strong child rights protections relating to the environment.
- The meaning of `environment' under CRC:
 - i. Where a child lives. This environment should ensure a decent standard of living, related to shelter, play, health, etc.
 - ii. The natural world, which includes plants, animals and people. Children need to have access to the natural world as they develop, and depriving them of this can have a negative impact.
- The concept of children's rights under the CRC relating to environmental degradation caused by business operations:
 - i. Article 3 principle of best interests of the child.
 - ii. Article 24 (2) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.

